

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 10520 031313Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2018

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 10520

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINS PINT CI

SUBJECT: GOC OFFERS FURTHER ACCOUNT OF OCTOBER 18 SHOOTOUT

REF: A) SANTIAGO 10274 (NOTAL), B) SANTIAGO 7979 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL CHILEAN ANNOUNCEMENT, THE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (DINA) DISCOVERED AN ARMS CACHE WHILE INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF TWO PERSONS KILLED ON OCTOBER 18 (REF A). THE STATEMENT SAID THAT THE PAIR, KILLED IN A SHOOTOUT, HAD BELONGED TO A DISSIDENT FACTION OF THE RED SEPTEMBER MOVEMENT. THE CACHE CONTAINED A SUB-MACHINEGUN, THREE HAND GUNS, AMMUNITION AND GUERRILLA AND PROPAGANDA PAMPHLETS.

2. DINA IDENTIFIED THE PAIR BY NAME AND ALLEGED THAT BOTH HAD PARTICIPATED IN SOCIALIST PARTY ACTION GROUPS PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 11, 1973 COUP. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED MAKING ADDITIONAL ARRESTS BUT SAID NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COULD BE MADE PUBLIC. THE STATEMENT QUOTED PRESIDENT PINOCHET AS SAYING THAT THE INCIDENT REPRESENTED A "MAJOR DEMONSTRATION" THAT TERRORISM STILL EXISTS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVING THE ARMED FORCES CAN ENSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY" (REF A).

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 10520 031313Z

3. COMMENT: IN AUGUST, SECURITY FORCES TOOK CREDIT FOR

BREAKING UP A GROUP THEY IDENTIFIED AS "RED SEPTEMBER" (REF B). THE GOC DESCRIBED THE ORIGINAL GROUP AS ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCCH), SOCIALISTS AND CHRISTIAN LEFT WORKING WITH THE MIR. THE CURRENT ACCOUNT REFERS TO A DISSIDENT FACTION OF THIS GROUP OF DISSIDENTS. SO FAR, THE GOC HAS ATTRIBUTED NO ARMED ACTION TO THE BAND RELATED TO THE OCTOBER 18 SHOOTING.

4. WE NOTED IN REF B THAT THE SECURITY FORCES' SUCCESS OF AUGUST SEEMED ALMOST UNBELIEVABLY FORTUITOUS. THE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE AT GENEVA QUICKLY PASSED A COPY OF LOCAL PRESS REPORTS AT THAT TIME TO THE UNHRC AD HOC WORKING GROUP AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE CONTINUING TERRORIST THREAT IN CHILE (SEE PARA 91 OF WORKING GROUPS'S CURRENT REPORT). IT MAY BE COINCIDENCE THAT SECURITY FORCES DISCOVERED ANOTHER PART OF THE GROUP -- ENABLING PINOCHET TO DESCRIBE IT AS A "MAJOR DEMONSTRATION" THAT TERRORISM IS A CONTINUING THREAT -- WHILE THE UNGA IS MEETING AND WILL BE CONSIDERING THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT. THEN AGAIN, IT MAY NOT.
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